



Washington State Emergency Management Council Committee on Homeland Security

Emergency Management Division
Washington Military Department

Background	<p>The impact of Islamist terrorism was felt as early as 1983 when a truck bomb demolished the Marine headquarters in Beirut killing 241 servicemen. The number of terrorist attacks directed against Americans rapidly grew during the decade of the 1990's. In January 2000, the Washington State Emergency Management Council (EMC), at the direction of Gov. Gary Locke, formed the Committee on Terrorism (COT). Following the 9/11/01 attacks, the COT was restructured and renamed the Committee on Homeland Security (CHS). The CHS structure currently consists of 25 Core Members, 8 Advisory Members, an Executive Steering Group, Strategic Working Group and 5 subcommittees (Prevention; Grants & Resources; Training & Exercise; Equipment and Infrastructure Protection).</p>	
Purpose	<p>The Committee on Homeland Security (CHS) develops and recommends statewide homeland security strategies to the EMC. The CHS provides a statewide forum that fosters dialogue and information sharing between members representing a broad range of state and local emergency management, responder and private sector agencies, organizations and associations.</p>	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a statewide strategy for preventing, planning and responding to threats and acts of terrorism;• Ensure an effective and coordinated mechanism exists to continuously assess and disseminate risk and threat information;• Identify resource opportunities and recommend appropriate lead agencies or other lead entities for specific grants;• Identify, develop and recommend standards for equipment and training for statewide interoperability;• Provide a forum for general coordination and the exchange of information among federal, state and local entities;• Recommend policy changes to improve and enhance statewide preparedness.	
Successes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Passage of Public Disclosure Legislation;• Partial implementation of the <i>National Incident Management System</i>;• On-line distance learning initiative for homeland security, CBRNE and hazardous materials related training;• Statewide selection, acquisition, and distribution of over \$5M in standardized and interoperable equipment through Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grants;• Oversight of over \$150,000,000 in homeland security grants;• Implementation of a <i>State Three-Year Exercise Strategy</i>;• Implementation of CHS long-term strategic planning;• Implementation of the <i>Washington Statewide Homeland Security Strategic Plan</i>.	
Core Membership	Department of Ecology Department of Agriculture Department of Health Department of Information Services Department of Transportation Local Emergency Management Local Emergency Medical Service Local Fire Departments	Department of Social & Health Services National Guard Office of Attorney General Office of Financial Management Washington State Patrol Emergency Management Division Fire Protection Bureau Department of Labor and Industries

Local Law Enforcement (Chiefs)
Local Law Enforcement (Sheriffs)
Local Public Health
Local Public Works
Urban Cities

Washington Association of Hospitals
Public Ports
Homeland Security Regions
Private Sector Business

**Advisory
Membership**

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Public Health Services
Department of Personnel
Tribal Liaison

Coast Guard
Department of Defense
Environmental Protection Agency
Employment Security Department
Navy

Contacts

Arel Solie, Homeland Security Section Manager 253-512-7468 a.solie@emd.wa.gov
Rob Harper, Public Information Officer 253-512-7005 r.harper@emd.wa.gov